



Next Steps Month Guide for Educators

The Governor has proclaimed October as Next Steps Month! This timeframe gives students room to breathe, reflect on their career goals, and take concrete steps to plan for their future.

Utilizing the many tools provided by the State Board of Education, the Idaho Department of Labor, the Idaho Department of Education and others – the goal is to have every high school senior (and underclassman) seriously thinking about what they’ll do after high school. Although it seems far off, graduation is just around the corner.

This October, we’re encouraging students to “Take 5” for their future. There are more than 30 tasks students can complete using the Next Steps website (in 5-30 minutes each). If they select even five of these to complete, they’ll be that much closer to having a plan for life after high school.

You can help your students “Take 5” by incorporating Next Steps Month into your lesson plans, hosting an event at your school, or simply generating awareness about the month. Here are a few ways to make your students’ next steps easy:

- Participate in College Application Week (choose any week in October that works for your school)
- Encourage students to “Take 5” for their future by offering extra credit for tasks they complete (using the Next Steps Month Activities list)
- Use the Next Steps Month Activities list in your lesson plans – allowing time for students to complete some of these tasks in class
- Host a financial aid help night at your school
- Promote the Next Steps Month evening events being held in a city near you
- Decorate your school/classrooms with college gear or materials that promote career pathways/options for students
- Find a way to highlight students who have made plans or know what they want for their future (have them talk about how they came to this decision/plan) so they can encourage their peers
- Put up Next Steps Month posters and send Next Steps Activities flyers home with students (or send to parents via email/post on your campus portal)
- Invite guest speakers to talk about career pathways and opportunities
- Invite colleges to come in and talk with seniors about their options
- Use the Next Steps Month promotional video and graphics on your school’s website, social media channels, or in-house TV programs

We can help you promote Next Steps Month and the tools available to help students make plans for their future.

Download and use:

- Next Steps Lesson Plan
- Next Steps Month Sample Promotional Copy
- Next Steps Month Activities Checklist
- Next Steps Month Promotional Video
- Next Steps Month Social Media Assets / Graphics
- Next Steps Month 11 x 17 Poster
- Next Steps Website Brochure